



# UTAH GRADUATION RATE



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# PRIVACY AND SECURITY

## Data Protection Issues



## Education of Staff

- Authorized users only
- Protections of Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
- Graduation data is FERPA-protected data
- You agree to:
  - Not share your login or password
  - Log off the Data Gateway or put your device asleep before leaving it unattended
  - Not save downloaded documents to hard drive or removable devices like a USB
  - If you save; save to a secure network server



# GRADUATION RATE OVERVIEW

# WHERE DO UTAH'S GRAD RATE RULES COME FROM?

- The current graduation rate rules come from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Guidance<sup>1</sup>.
  - Using federal rules for graduation rate calculations facilitates consistency and allows for state-by-state comparisons.
  - Utah started using current calculation rules with the graduating class of 2011. We have recalculated through the class of 2008 to allow for comparison.
- The Board of Education has also given guidance as to how to calculate graduation rates<sup>2</sup>.
  - Board Rule R277-419-6 gives direction on determining the final status for a student.

# WHO USES GRADUATION RATE?

## Accountability

AMAO Title I  
Federal Accountability  
Alternative Accountability  
Grading Schools  
PACE

## Research

USOE Research  
District Analysis NCES  
Federal State Comparisons  
Third Party Research

## Reporting

National News  
School Comparison Sites  
Superintendent's Annual Report  
Local News

● **And More.**





# GRADUATION RATES & ACCOUNTABILITY

# HOW DO THE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS USE GRADUATION RATE?

- **School Federal Accountability Report (SFAR)** uses the federal graduation rate exactly as is.

- SFAR Graduation Scoring:

Grad Rate X 150 = Grad Rate Points

Example: Federal Grad Rate = 50%

$$.50 \times 150 = 75 \text{ points}$$

- **Grading Schools** uses the federal graduation rate *excluding retained seniors*.

- Grading Schools Graduation Scoring:

Adjusted Grad Rate X 150 = Grad Rate Points

Example: Federal Grad Rate = 50%

Adjusted Grad Rate = 52%

$$.52 \times 150 = 78 \text{ points}$$

- 
- **PACE** displays the federal graduation rate, as is, for the past three years.



# HOW DO THE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS USE GRADUATION RATE?

- All three accountability systems use the graduation rate from the previous year. This means *the 2015 accountability reports will use the 2014 graduation rate.*
- This is because accountability reports are typically published in September and Graduation Rates are published the following December.



# ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

- The **Alternative Accountability Report** (for Alternative and Special Education Schools) uses an 'Attainment Index' rather than graduation rates.
- A student receives varying points depending on their final status at the school. These points are then averaged for the school

Final Status	Points
Graduate	300
GED, Aged Out, Certificate of Completion, or UAA Graduate	250
Transferred to Higher Ed or UCAT	250
Transferred to Another School	250
Transferred to Adult Ed	150
Retained Senior	150
Dropout or Status Unknown	0
Died, Transferred (Homeschool, Private School, Out-of-State), Foreign Exchange Student, Withdrew for Medical Reasons.	EXCLUDED

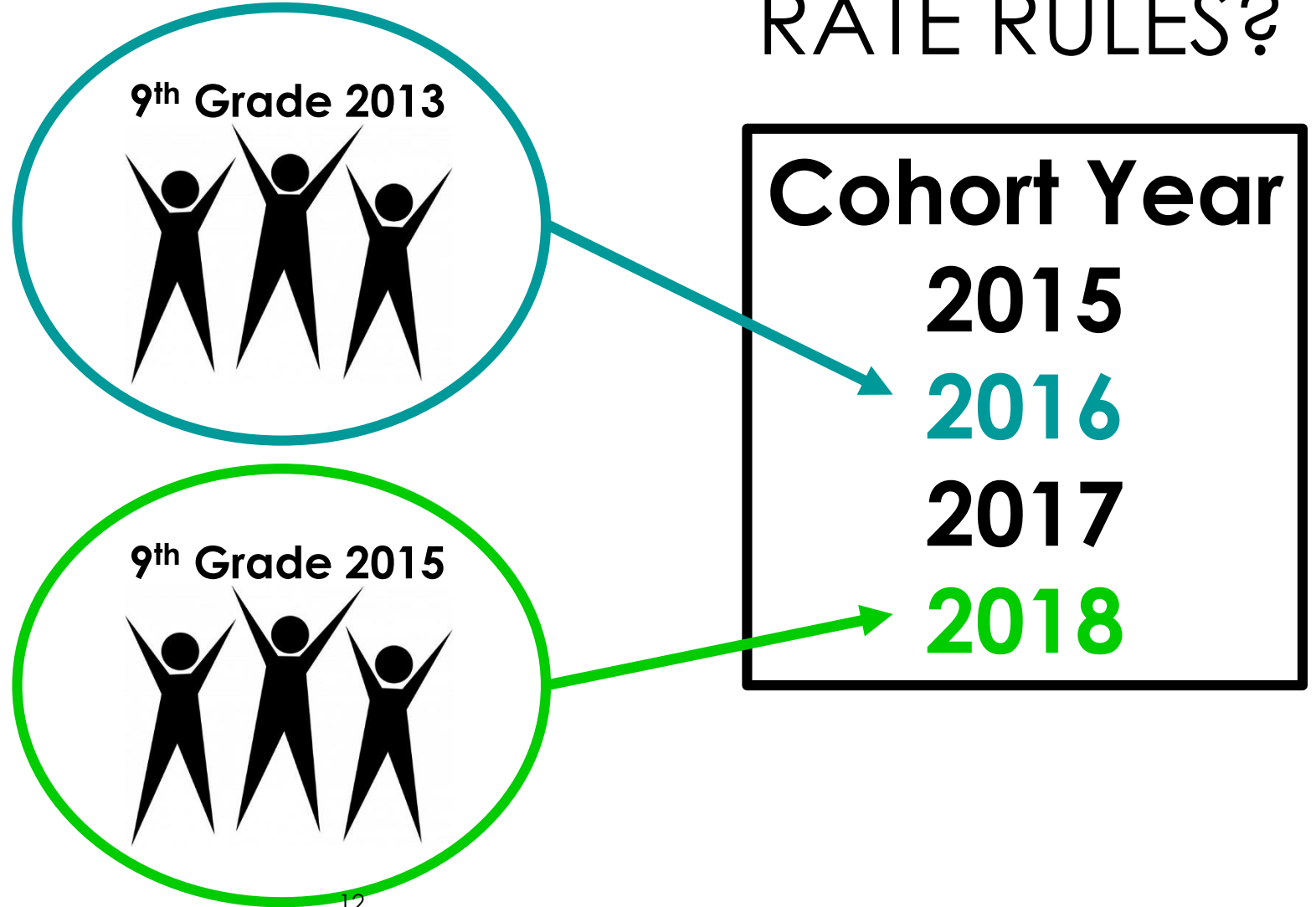


# CALCULATIONS

# WHAT ARE THE CURRENT GRAD RATE RULES?

**All students** are placed in a cohort when they first enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade. They are expected to graduate 4 years later.

A **cohort** is a group of students that are expected to graduate in the same school year.

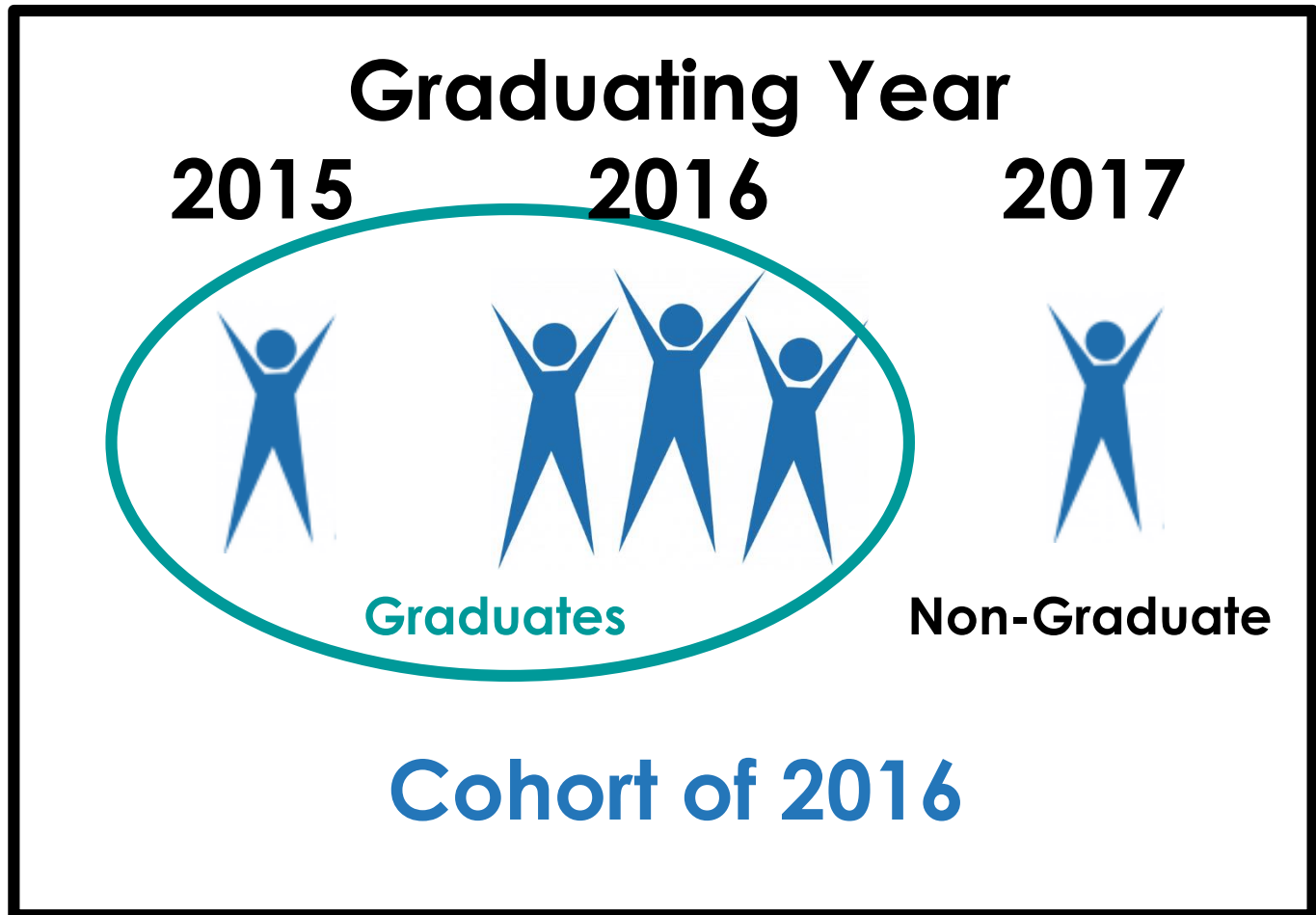


# WHAT ARE THE CURRENT GRAD RATE RULES?

NCLB only considers on-time graduates.

If a student graduates **prior to their cohort**, they count as a graduate for their cohort.

If a student graduates **after their cohort**, they count as a non-graduate for their cohort.



# WHO COUNTS AS A GRADUATE?

A student is either a graduate, a non-graduate, or excluded.

## **Graduates**

- Graduate w/Basic HS Diploma
- Graduate Carnegie
- Graduate Military
- Early Graduate

## **Non-Graduates**

- Dropout
- Expelled/Suspended
- Withdraw
- Late Graduate
- Transfer to Adult Ed, Higher Ed, or UCAT
- Retained Senior
- Aged Out
- Completion Certificate
- GED

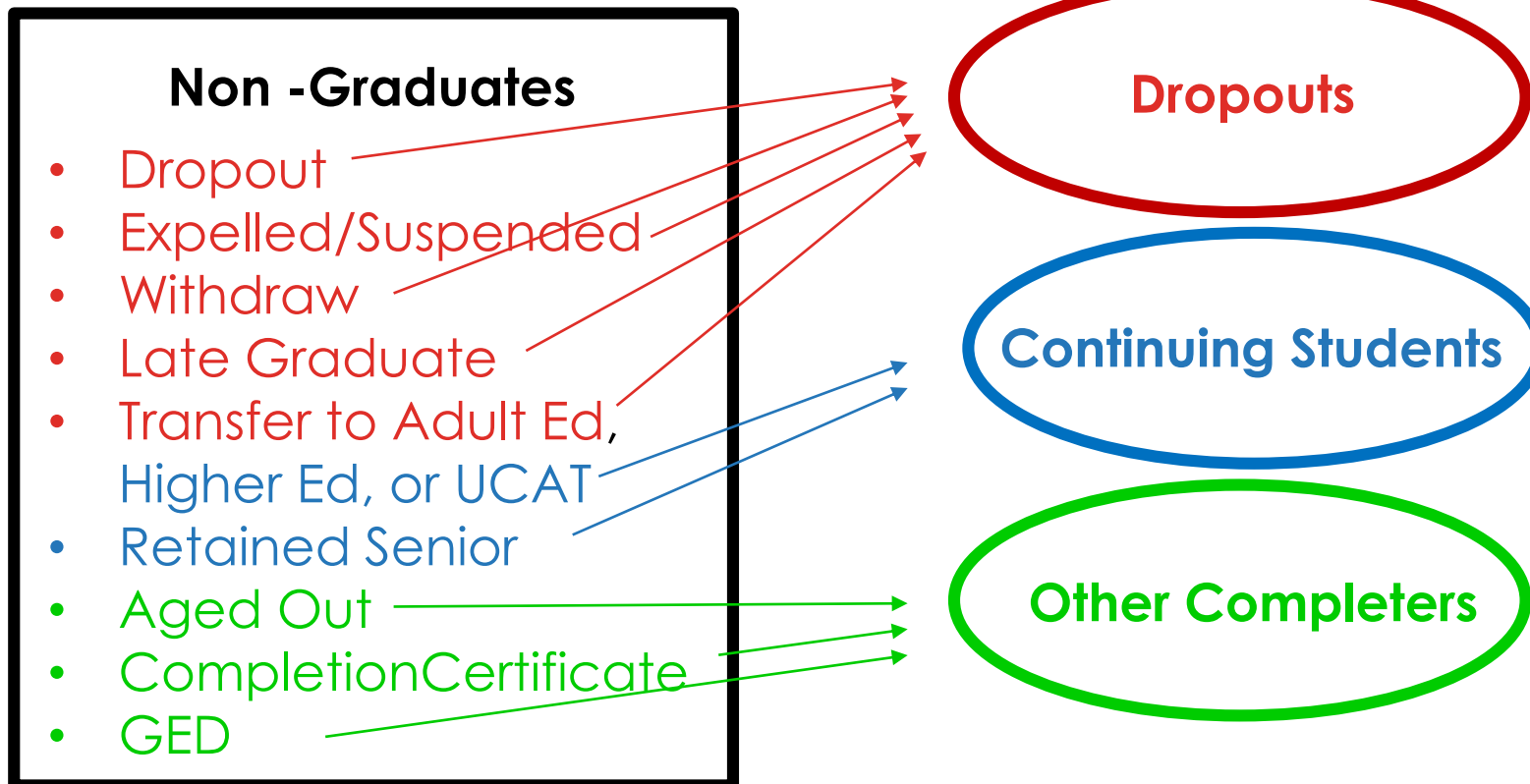
## **Excluded**

- Foreign Exchange Student
- Transfer out of State/Country
- Transfer to Home/Private School
- Attending in Another State
- Death
- Withdraw Medical



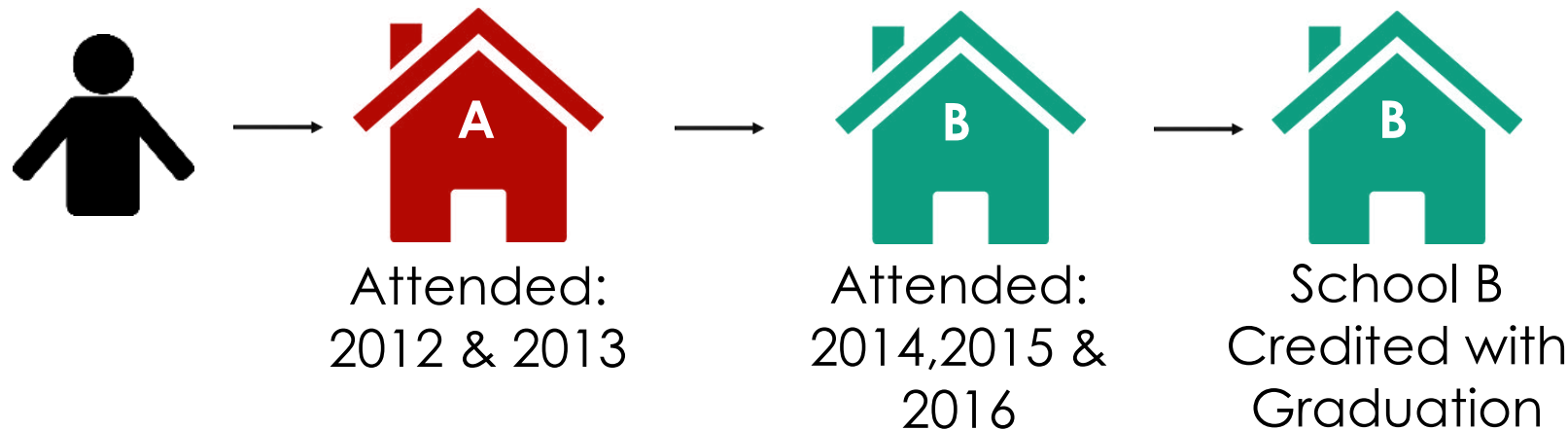
# WHO COUNTS AS A GRADUATE?

Some state reporting will divide non-graduates into three subgroups: Dropouts, Continuing Students, and Other Completers.



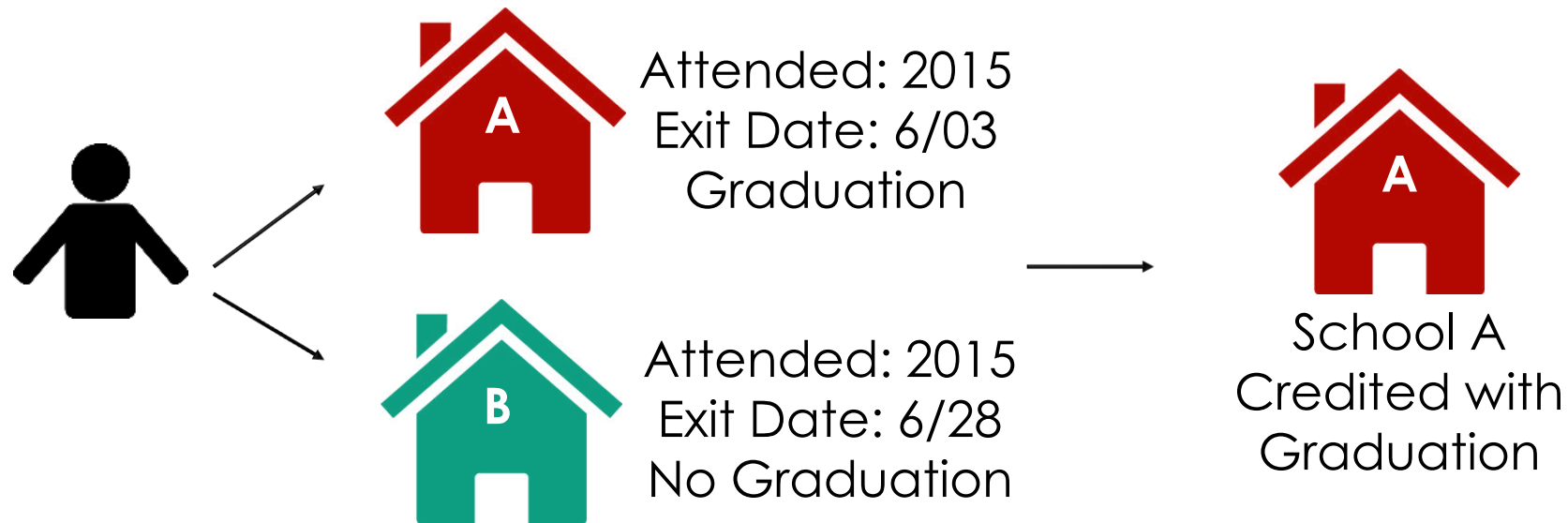
# WHAT LEA/SCHOOL GETS CREDITED WITH GRADUATION?

The last school to enroll a student gets credited with the student's graduation status.



# WHAT LEA/SCHOOL GETS CREDITED WITH GRADUATION?

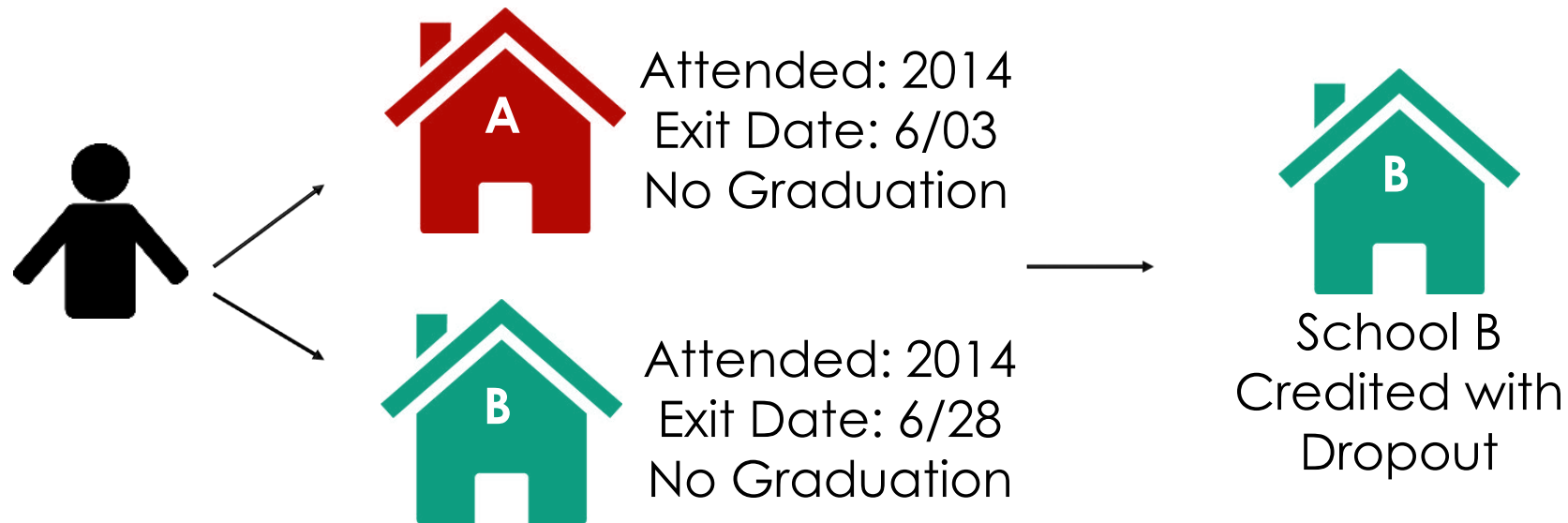
EXCEPTION: If the student attends two schools in their final year, and one school graduates the student while the other does not, then the graduating school is credited.\*



\*This rule is new as of the 2015 cohort.

# WHAT LEA/SCHOOL GETS CREDITED WITH GRADUATION?

If the student attends two schools their final year, but neither school graduates the student, then the school with the latest exit date is credited.





# CHECKING GRADUATION RATE DATA

# HOW CAN I CHECK MY GRADUATION DATA?

- The “**Graduation Rate Preview Report**” is now in the Data Gateway and will be updated every January, August, and November with the current year's cohort. You must be logged in and have rights to see this report. Your LEA Data Gateway Administrator can grant you rights to this report.

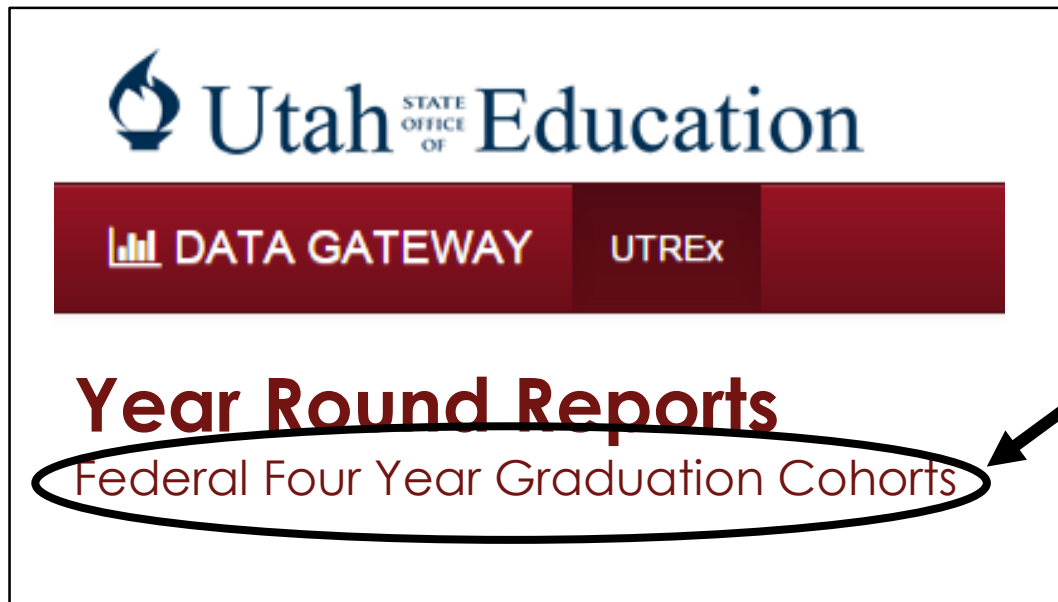


\*NOTE: The November report is merely to give LEAs a preview of the final graduation rates before they go public. No updates are allowed.



# HOW CAN I CHECK MY GRADUATION DATA?

- The **“Federal Four Year Graduation Cohorts”** report is in UTREx and is updated every time your LEA uploads data. This report is not official. Data may change as your LEA updates data OR when another LEA updates data. You must have UTREx access to see this report. Please contact your UTREx personnel if you need a copy of this report for your school.



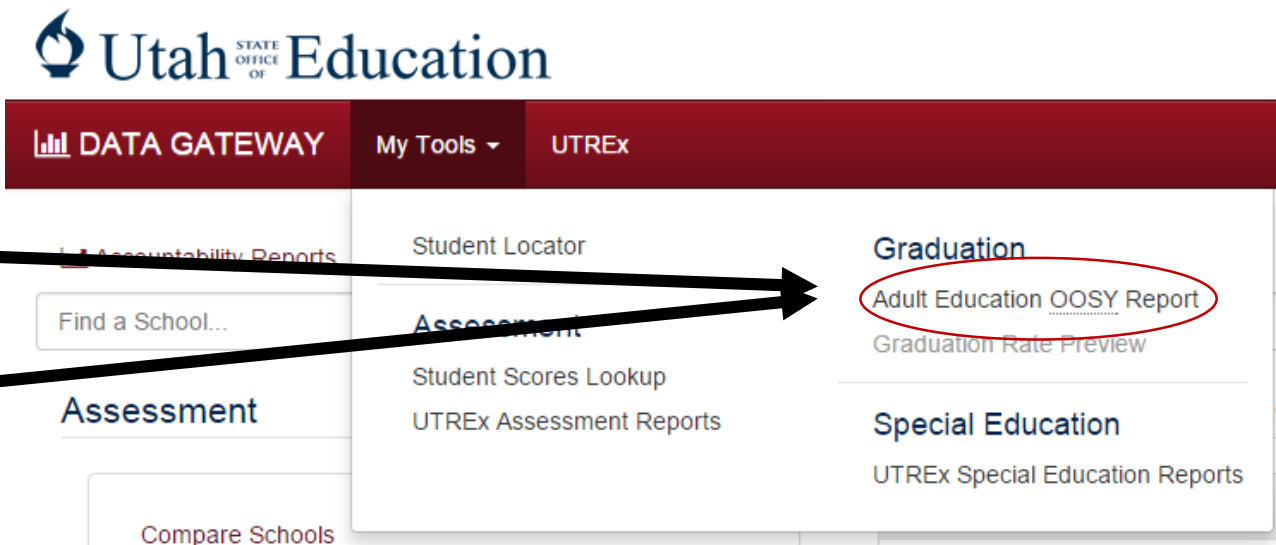
**Updated every  
time data is  
uploaded to  
UTREx**

# HOW CAN I CHECK MY GRADUATION DATA?

- Each September and beginning of October an **“Out of School Youth”** (OOSY) report will be updated with a list of the LEA’s students who have received an adult education diploma (e.g. GED). This report is also in the Data Gateway.

**September**

**October**



Utah STATE OFFICE OF Education

DATA GATEWAY My Tools UTREx

Accountability Reports

Find a School...

Assessment

Compare Schools

Student Locator

Assessment

Student Scores Lookup

UTREx Assessment Reports

Graduation

Adult Education OOSY Report

Graduation Rate Preview

Special Education

UTREx Special Education Reports

# HOW CAN I CHECK MY GRADUATION DATA?

## Graduation Rate Report Differences

### Graduation Rate Preview

Official Grad Rates  
Updated 3x a Year  
In Data Gateway

### Federal Four Year Graduation Cohorts

Not Official  
Updated Daily  
In UTREx

### Out of State Youth (OOSY)

Adult Graduates  
Updated 2X a Year  
In Data Gateway



# COMMON ISSUES



# COMMON ISSUES

- Issue: A student is showing up as a dropout for your school, but you know they graduated from another school in the state.
- Possible Cause: Most likely the student was assigned two different SSIDs.
- Solution: Verify from the other LEA that this is the same student and get from them what SSID they used. Submit an SSID merge to [ssidhelp@schools.utah.gov](mailto:ssidhelp@schools.utah.gov).



# COMMON ISSUES

- Issue: A student is showing as a dropout for your school, but you know they transferred to another school in the state.
- Possible Cause: The student may have decided not to transfer to the other school. They may have transferred to a private school, to homeschool, or dropped out.
- Solution: Verify where the student actually ended up going. Update their record if needed.



# COMMON ISSUES

- Issue: A student is showing in a different cohort than when the student will graduate.
- Possible Cause: A student's grade was previously incorrectly submitted.
- Solution: Double check that all grades entered in past years were correct. If a grade was incorrectly entered, submit a historical update form.
- NOTE: Sometimes a student will repeat a grade in high school. In this case, the cohort year CANNOT be updated.



# COMMON ISSUES

- Issue: An exit code was updated in the school's SIS system but it did not get updated in UTREx.
- Possible Cause: If the exit code was updated on a past year's record, it will never get sent in to UTREx. UTREx only accepts current year records.
- Solution: Submit the update using an s1-x record.

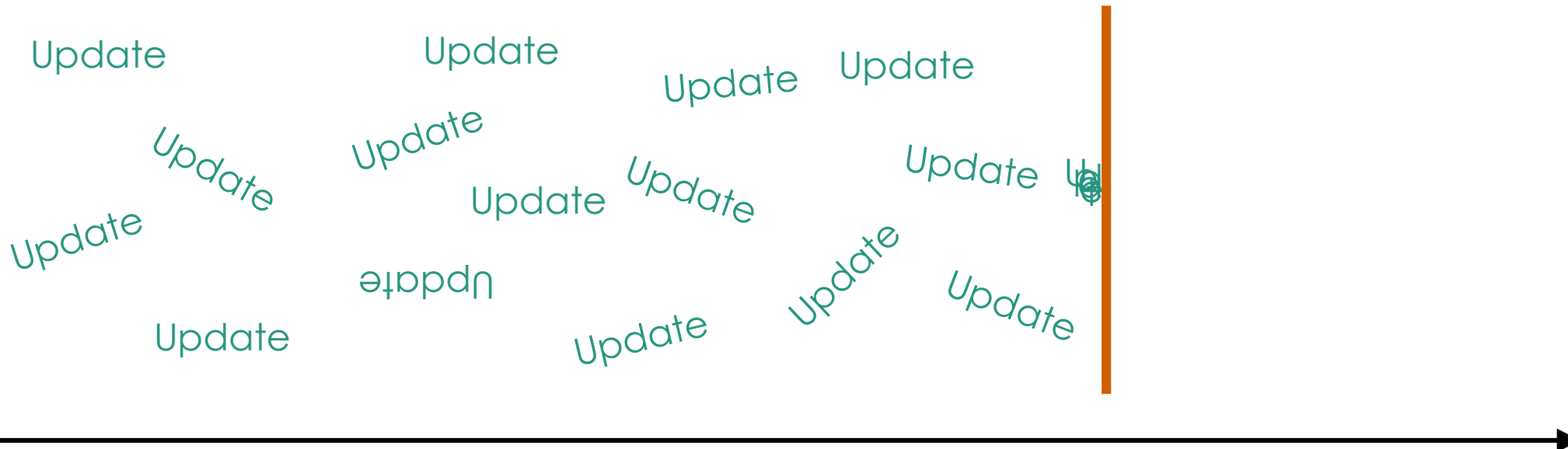


# GRADUATION RATE DEADLINES

# WHEN IS MY DATA DUE BY?

All graduation rate updates are due by **October 15<sup>th</sup>** following the student's cohort year. If a student is in the 2015 cohort (most will graduate May or June of 2015), the deadline for updates is October 15, 2015.

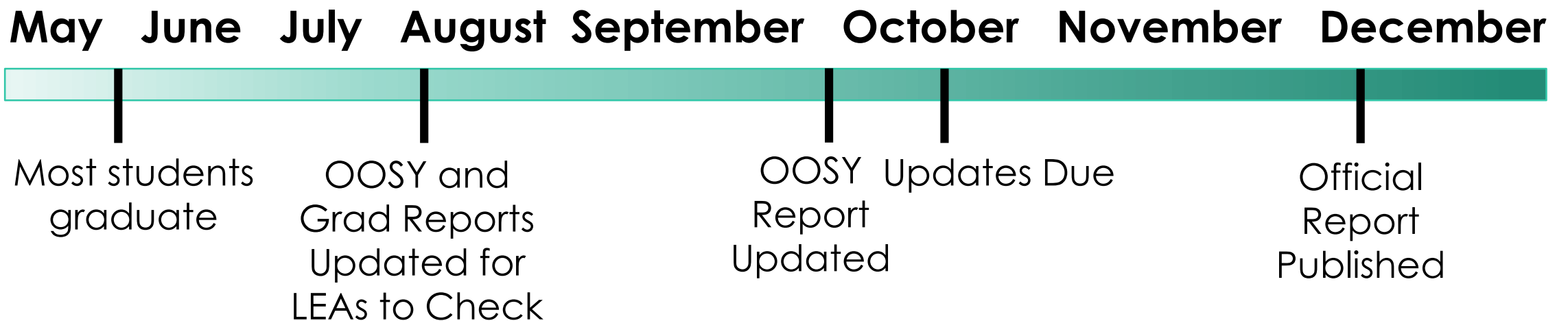
**October 15<sup>th</sup>**



# WHEN ARE GRADUATION RATES PUBLISHED?

- Official graduation rates are published every year in December.
- For students graduating at the end of the 2014-15 school year, their graduation rate will be published in December of 2015.

## Graduation Rate Time Line





THE END



# CONTACTS

- Sarah Wald – Graduation Rate
  - [sarah.wald@schools.utah.gov](mailto:sarah.wald@schools.utah.gov)
  - 801-538-7947
- Aaron Brough – Graduation Rate
  - [aaron.brough@schools.utah.gov](mailto:aaron.brough@schools.utah.gov)
  - 801-538-7922
- UTREx Help – Data Gateway Access
  - [utrexhelp@schools.utah.gov](mailto:utrexhelp@schools.utah.gov)
  - 801-538-7800
- Adam Little - OOSY report
  - [adam.little@schools.utah.gov](mailto:adam.little@schools.utah.gov)

# END NOTES

<sup>1</sup>The NCLB High School Graduation Rate Guide can be found at:  
<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/hsgrguidance.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Board rule 277-419-6 can be found at:  
<http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-419.htm>